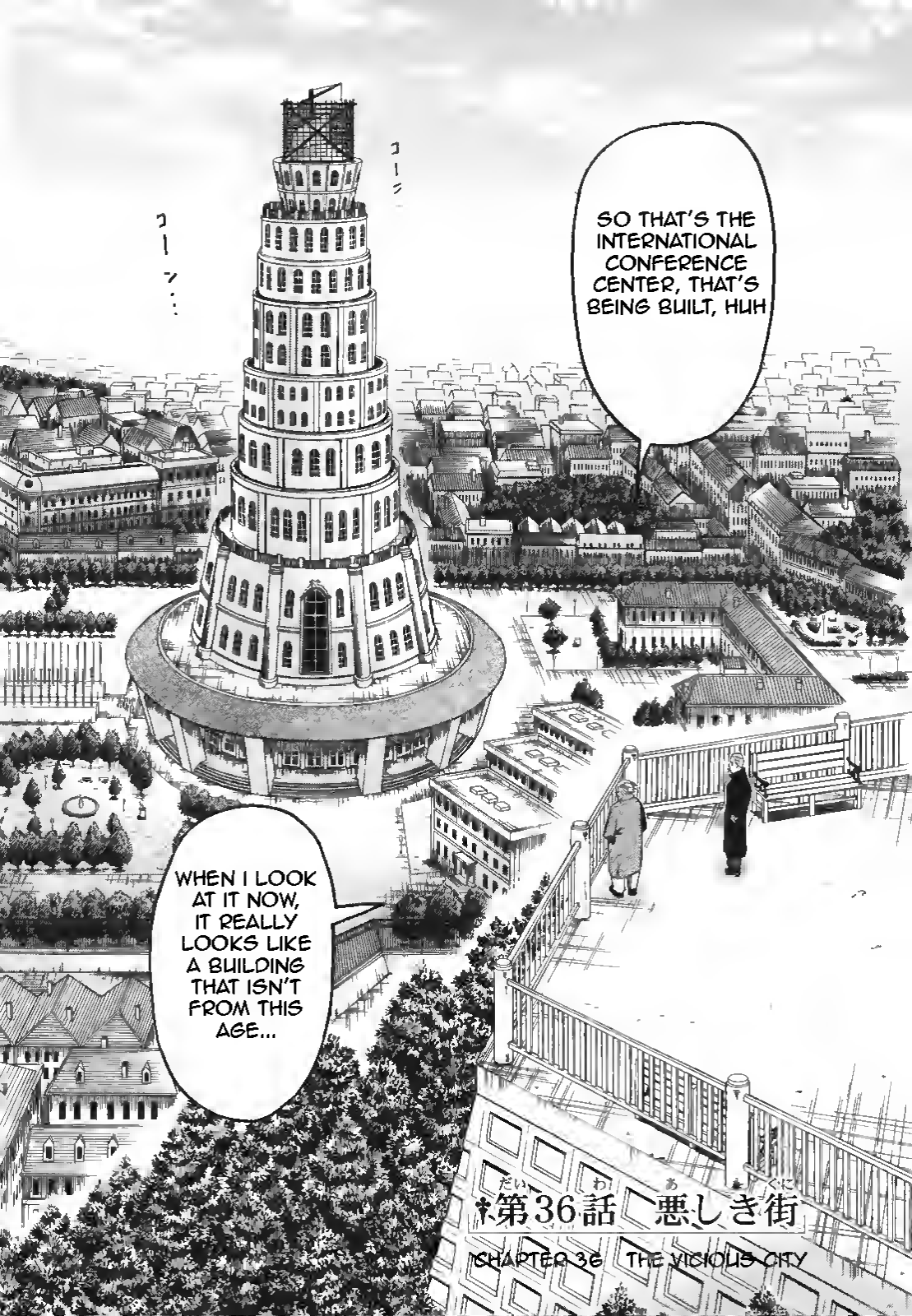

コーン
コーン…
SO THAT'S THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, THAT'S BEING BUILT, HUH
WHEN I LOOK AT IT NOW, IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A BUILDING THAT ISN'T FROM THIS AGE...
第36話 悪しき街
CHAPTER 36 THE VICIOUS CITY

THEY'RE JUST CHECKING THE OUTER STRUCTURE
THE INSIDE, IS ALMOST COMPLETELY FINISHED
THERE'S STILL A CRANE UP, WILL IT BE FINISHED IN TIME?
THERE'S LESS THAN 2 MONTHS LEFT
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE WILL BE ABLE TO INTERVENE, BUT...
...WELL, ATLEAST WE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND THE CAPITAL, FREELY AND EASILY
THE CEREMONIAL DIVISION IS IN CHARGE OF THAT
WHAT ABOUT SECURITY?
WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR AN ANSWER AS TO HELPING WITH SECURITY WITHIN THE TOWER, THOUGH
WE'VE ALREADY HELD DOWN ALL THE POSSIBLE SNIPING POINTS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA
.....
...HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE TO WORK INSIDE THE CITY, THANKS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT TOWER
I SEE... WELL, US SECTION 3, AS WELL

LET'S GET....
...DOWN TO BUSINESS
HERE IS COLONEL GARSHIM'S MILITARY RECORD AND HIS MOVEMENTS IN THE PAST 2 YEARS
WE'VE FOUND OUT... ABOUT 70% OF HIS UNDER-THE-TABLE DEALINGS
HERE'S A LIST OF GUYS I KNOW FROM WHEN I WAS STILL AN MP
THEY SPECIALIZE IN OBTAINING INFO ABOUT THE FINANCIAL BUREAU
YOU DON'T HAVE THAT MANY CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT, RIGHT
THEY'RE ALL QUITE USEFUL
BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA TORTURE ANY OF THEM, I'M GOING INTO HIDING
IS THAT CYNICISM, AIMED TOWARDS ME?
OR...

IN ANY CASE, THIS IS AS FAR AS OUR JOINT OPER-ATIONS, GO
...NO MATTER
..IS IT AIMED TOWARDS YOUR PAST SELF...
SINCE WE USUALLY DON'T SHARE BUDGETS, OR SHARE JURIS-DICTION ON THE GROUND....
NORMALLY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO HELP EACH OTHER
I HAVE NO PROBLEM USING IT AGAINST YOU
FORTUNATELY FOR US, WE CAN USE THE CAROUSEL INCIDENT AGAINST YOU
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT SECTION 3, WHEN YOU WERE FEELING DEPRESSED
I STILL REGRET WHAT I DID
...HANKS
ガチャ...

ALL YOU'RE DOING IS PUTTING THE BURDEN OF ALL THE LIVES YOU'VE TAKEN...
...THE BURDEN OF YOUR CRIMES, ONTO YOUR "WAR RELIEF EFFORT"
ALICE SHOULD BE DOWN THERE BY NOW...
UP NEXT, IS...
THE PUBLIC FINANCIER REPRESEN-TATIVE...

LET'S HEAR WHAT MR. LONDARIO HAS TO SAY
.....
ARE PATHETIC ....
ALL OF YOU...
ARE YOU PEOPLE AWARE THAT 2 MONTHS FROM NOW...
THE EMPIRE MAY BECOME THE WEAKEST COUNTRY WITHIN THE NEVI-EURO ALLIANCE

THE NEVI-EURO ALLI-ANCE...
ざわ
ざわ
...AGAINST THE STRONGER, EASTERN POWERS, BETWEEN THE SMALLER WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO PROMISED TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT AND POOL OUR RESOURCES TOGETHER
IS THE NAME OF THE ALLIANCE THAT WAS FORMED IN ORDER TO STAND UP....
THE THING THAT OUR COUNTRY WAS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE, FOR THE ALLIANCE, WAS....
AND ALL THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD ACT LIKE ONE LARGE COUNTRY, WITH EACH COUNTRY CONTRIBUTING WHAT THEY CAN
EACH COUNTRY WOULD CONTRIBUTE THE GREATEST NATIONAL RESOURCE THEY HAD...

AN UNBREAKABLE GATE THAT STANDS AT THE ROAD, BLOCKING ENTRANCE TO THE WEST!
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, WE HAVE BEEN A COUNTRY THAT LEAD THE WAY IN BRAVERY
A MILITARY FORCE. CAPABLE OF FIGHTING AGAINST THE EASTERN POWERS...!!
SO THAT LATER GENERATIONS CAN LOOK BACK AND KNOW, "THE NEVI-EURO DID NOTHING WRONG"!!
WE DID OUR DUTY AS KNIGHTS OF THE NEVI-EURO, ENACTING JUSTICE IN THE BATTLEFIELD
NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS, OF STRATEGY AND BRAVERY,
TODAY, WHAT IS NEEDED IS MATERIAL POWER!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE ADVANCEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY FAVORED "NUMBERS" OVER "BRAVERY"
AND THIS LED TO A SEVERE DECLINE IN OUR COUNTRY
AND YET, OUR EMPIRE, KEPT RELYING ON THE OLD WAYS TO FIGHT....

THOSE COUNTRIES, THAT SUPPORT US....
THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE SO MUCH COMPENSATION FROM THE OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES, RIGHT?
...BUT IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT MILITARY STRATEGY
HOW A COUNTRY LIKE OURS, WAS ABLE TO HOLD THE REPUBLIC INTO A STALE-MATE
THOSE COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE RICH IN RESOURCES, ARE PROBABLY WONDERING ....
HAS TECHNOLOGY THAT IS FAR GREATER THAN THAT OF OUR ENEMIES
THE REASON FOR THIS, IS BECAUSE THE EMPIRE....
BUT, IF YOU TAKE AWAY...
OUR TECHNOLOGICAL MONOPOLY
ニィ...
THE CAULIFLIN... AGENCY...
.....
ゴク...

A COU-
NTRY
THAT
THE
AGING
"EMPIRE"
CAN'T
EVEN
COM-
PARE
WITH
THE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL START THINKING, THAT MAYBE THEIR COUNTRY, WITH IT'S RICH RES-OURCES, CAN BECOME THE STR-ONGEST COUNTRY IN NEVI-EURO"
....
HOLD ON, A MINUTE
....
WE GET A LARGE AMOUNT OF ROYALTIES, EVEN FROM THE PRODUCTION OF SMALL ARMS, ALONE
ARE PATENTED BY THE ALLIANCE
CLASS-IFIED, OR...
'BUT MOST OF THE SCHE-MATICS FROM CAU-PLIN ARE...

THAT'S RIGHT
IN THE JOINT SUMMIT, 2 MONTHS FROM NOW
THE OTHER COUNTRIES MAY VOTE TO ABOLISH THE PATENTS ON ALL THE INVENTIONS OF CAUPLIN
THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT, BUT....
ONCE THEY ARE ABLE TO STEAL OUR TECHN-OLOGY...
帝国は西方諸国の中で
身を立てる術を喪う・・・!!
*THE EMPIRE WILL LOSE IT'S FOOTING WITHIN THE NEVI-EURO ALLIANCE.....!!

MR. LON-DARIO
ざわ
ざわ
PLEASE DO NOT SAY THINGS THAT WOULD...
WORRY THE GENERAL PUBLIC
SCREECH.

YOU ARE THE SYMBOL OF THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE EMPIRE!!
IMPERIAL ARMY, SECTION 3!!
AND YET, YOU HAVE NO SUB-STANCE TO YOUR UNIT!
YOU'VE CONCEN-TRATED ON YOUR PUBLIC IMAGE
AND BECOME A UNIT THAT IS ACTUALLY WORTHY OF BEING FUNDED!!
IF YOU WANT THE TAX FUNDING, THEN STOP USING WAR RELIEF AS A TEMPORARY EXCUSE TO GATHER FUNDS,
WELL THEN, LET ME ASK YOU...
....OHO
WAR RELIEF EFFORTS IS OUR MAIN OBJE-CTIVE
WE DO NOT USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE FOR ANY-THING

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION?
WHAT STATE MUST THE EMPIRE BE IN,
ギッ…
ギリ
AND YET YOU CAN'T ANSWER A SIMPLE QUESTION LIKE THIS...
YOU'RE A CAPTAIN OF AN ENTIRE UNIT...
AND USE THAT MONEY TO BUY FOOD AND SOUP TO HAND OUT TO THE PUBLIC
I'D SAY THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DISSOLVE SECTION 3...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT OUTER APPEARANCES
SUB-STANCE IS WHAT IS IMPOR-TANT TO ME!
THE MILITARY IS ALL FLASH, NO SUBSTANCE, BUT I'M NOT LIKE THEM
西方諸国(ネービユーロ)になど食(く)われない
真(しん)の強国(きょうこく)に変(か)えてやる!!
*I WILL MAKE THIS INTO A TRULY STRONG COUNTRY, THAT WILL NOT LOSE TO THE OTHER NEVI-EURO ALLIES!!
THE JOINT SUMMIT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...
SHOULD HE REALLY BE SAYING THESE THINGS?

I'M SURPRISED SECTION 1 DIDN'T CENSOR THIS...
YEAH
SO LT. ALICE, TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE HUMILIATION, ALL BY HERSELF!?
NO WAY!
BESIDES, WE WERE THE ONES WHO WERE MADE FUN OF...
THEY HAVE THEIR REASONS
HM?
AH, SORRY, I WAS SPACING OUT
THE THING THAT MR. LONDARIO, SAID...
...ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE WAR RELIEF EFFORT...

....BEFORE, I THOUGHT "GIVING OUT BREAD AND SOUP" WAS...
THE BEST WAY FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.... THAT'S WHAT I USED TO THINK
.....
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT AT THE PRESS CONFER-ENCE?
"THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING"
THESE DAYS... I FEEL AS THOUGH I MIGHT HAVE BEEN WRONG, IN THE PAST
...I, I GET IT.... SO YOU'RE SAYING, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING?
YOU DON'T GET IT, AT ALL, DO YOU
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
ボヌ ボヌ ボヌ
THAT INDUST-RIALIST, LONDA-RIO...

I'VE HEARD BAD RUMORS ABOUT HIM
HIS REAL ESTATE BUSINESS BORDERS ON THE ILLEGAL...
AND I EVEN HEARD THAT HE HIRES MERCENARIES TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK
HE'S VERY ACTIVE, IN A DANGEROUS WAY, SO....
WHAT IF HE DOES SOMETHING BEFORE THE JOINT SUMMIT OCCURS...
LET SECTION 1 WORRY ABOUT IT
EXCUSE ME
THIS IS MASTER SERGEANT MARBELL FROM THE POSTAL DIVISION
IS CORPORAL ORLAND AROUND?
SORRY, THE CORPORAL IS IN THE HOSPITAL...
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK

FROM THE HOSPITAL, AGAIN!?
HE RAN AWAY
CALM DOWN
IS HE JUST AN IDIOT!!
IS HE AN IDIOT!? OR...
WE'LL FILE THE PAPER WORK AND GET PERMISSION LATER
IF YOU'RE BOUND BY CONFIDENTIALITY, DON'T WORRY
I WAS... UH, IN CHARGE OF SENDING MONEY, AND...

.....
THE MONEY HE EARNED WAS SENT TO....
...DISTRICT ZERO
WHEN THE INCIDENT WHERE THE MAIL WAS BEING STOLEN
OCCURRED, HE WAS WORRIED WHETHER HIS MAIL WAS BEING SENT TO IT'S PROPER LOCATION...
I ASKED THE AGENT IN CHARGE BUT NO LUCK
HE SAID HE WAS AFRAID TO ENTER THE DISTRICT
I SEE ....

HE SAID THAT IT FELT LIKE THE CITY WAS ON THE BRINK OF WAR
THE ENTIRE CITY WAS FILLED WITH A TENSE AIR....
I CARE-LESSLY...
MADE HIM WORRY
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
IT'S NOT ON YOU THAT HE LEFT THE HOSPITAL
CAPTAIN
I FORBADE YOU FROM ENTERING DISTRICT ZERO, 2 YEARS AGO
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO GO BECAUSE OF THIS...

BRINGING BACK THE CORPORAL, IS JUST SECON-DARY
I NEED TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER...
...TO THE QUESTION THAT I COULDN'T, 2 YEARS AGO...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I MUST DO THIS
I NEED TO FIND OUT...
WHAT IT MEANS TO ACCOM-PLISH THE WAR RELIEF EFFORT..

SIR, SIR!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE, YOU COME FROM THE OUTSIDE?
AH, SO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE LOTUS WALKWAY?
YOU SHOULDN'T GO THERE, THEY WILL OVERCHARGE YOU TO THE POINT OF BANKRUPTCY!
THAT'S WHY I'LL GLADLY TAKE YOU TO A FAR BETTER PLACE! PERFECT FOR NEW-COMMERS LIKE YOU!!
UH... NO...
NOW NOW
WE ALWAYS HAVE ATLEAST 10 WOMEN WHO ARE IN THE TOP 5...
...IN THE ENTIRE EMPIRE!!
UH, THAT'S NOT WHY I...
NOW, NOW

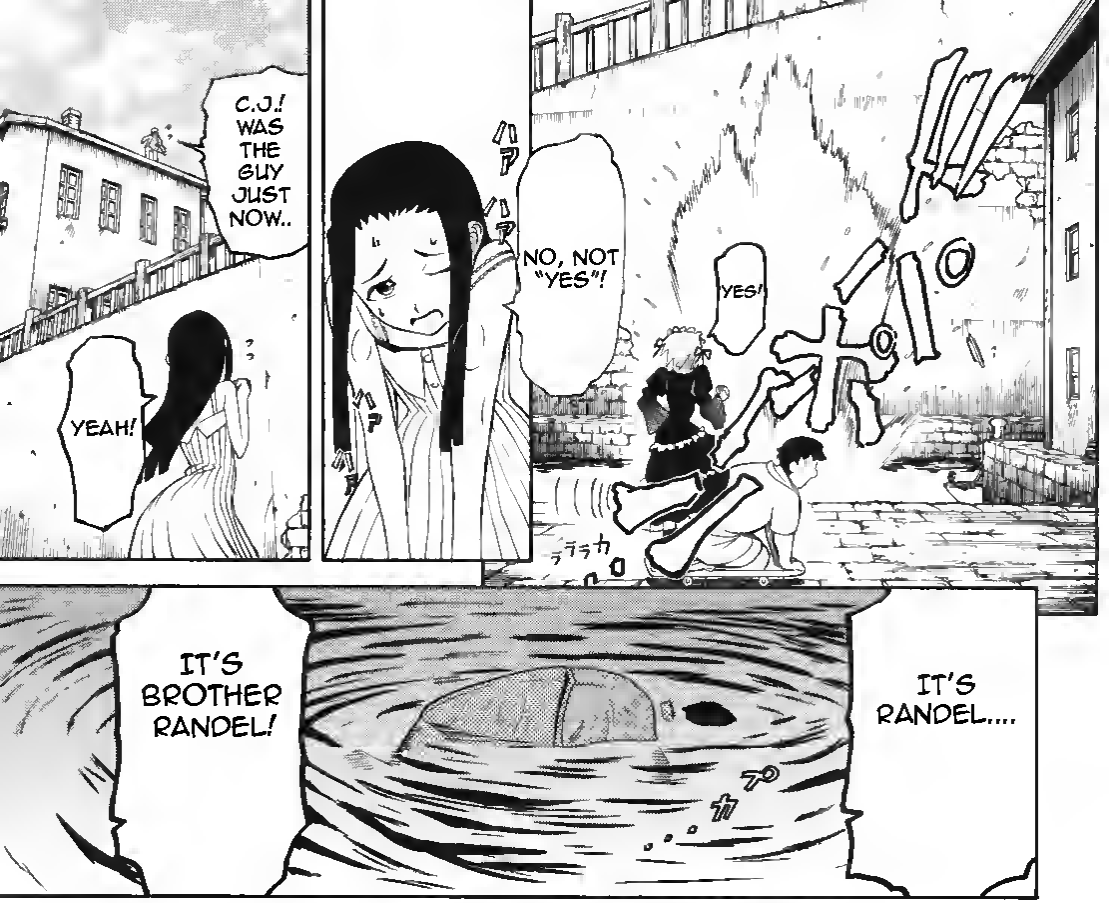
カァー カァー
クルックー
クルックー
COME ON, JUST TAKE A LOOK
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE
OH, DADDY

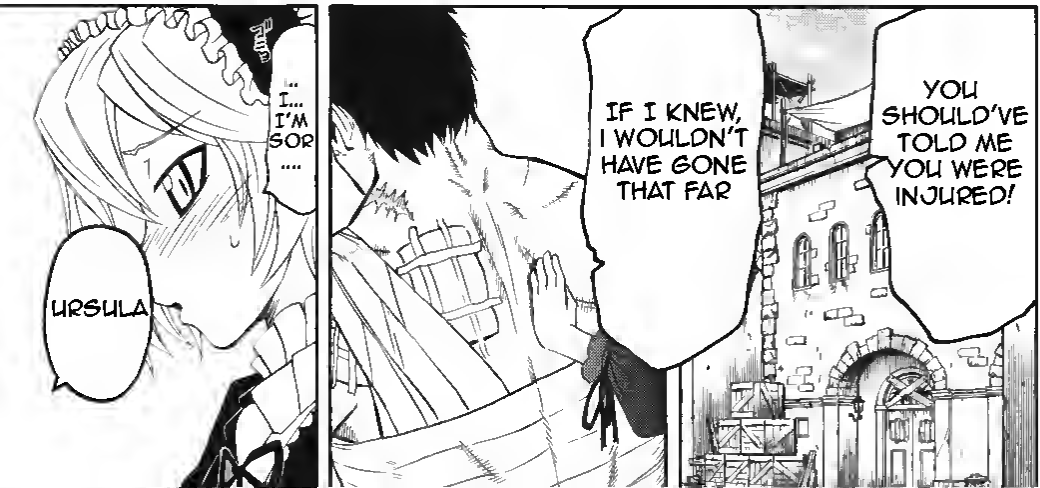
.....!
URSULA!?
.....!?
BRO....
YOU...
WHY ARE YOU WORKING AT A PLACE LIKE....
!
D...DON'T TOUCH ME!!
YOU PEICE OF SHIT BRO-THER!!
WAIT, HOLD ON...!!
UR-SULA!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE URSULA WANTED TO SHAKE OFF A CUS-TOMER
"MR CUST-OMER
TIME TO GO HOME"...
NOW!
UGH!?
URSULA!
OWE
THOSE SCARS ON HIS CHEEKS... COULD IT BE...
.....!
XXX XXX XXX

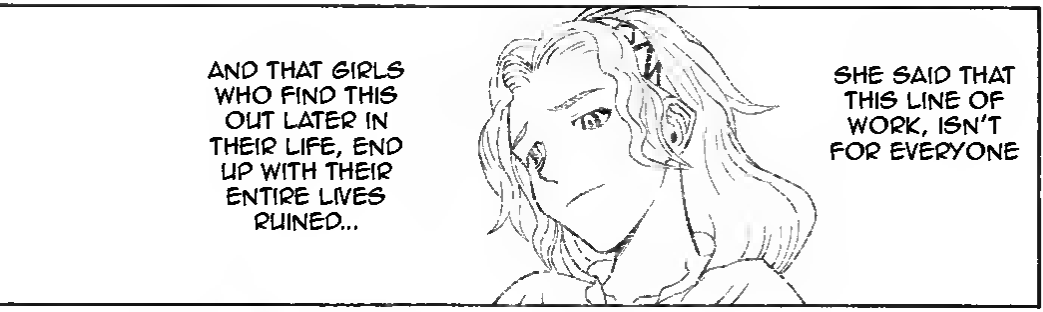
LET'S GO, IDATEN
W...
WAIT, URSULA!!
LISTEN TO ME...
……

AAAAAHH!!

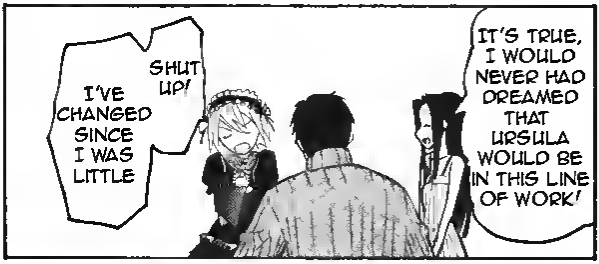

C.J.! WAS THE GUY JUST NOW..
YEAH!
NO, NOT "YES"!
YES!
デラカ
IT'S BROTHER RANDEL!
IT'S RANDEL....


...I... I'M SOR....
URSULA
IF I KNEW, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT FAR
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU WERE INJURED!

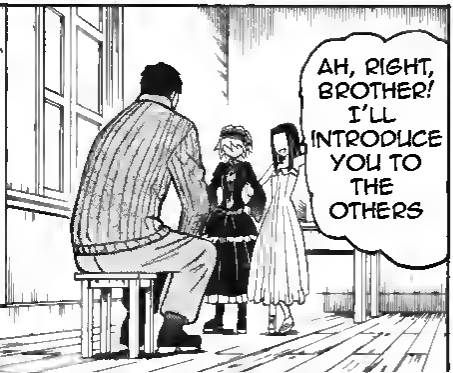
ARE YOU WORKING AT....
AND YOU TOO, C.J.
THIS IS DISTRICT ZERO, REMEMBER?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BECOME SOFT, SINCE YOU WERE OUTSIDE...
HMPH!
BESIDES, OUR MOTHER WAS....
CHILDREN LIKE US, CAN'T BE CHOOSEY AS TO WHAT JOB WE TAKE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE
....BUT...
...OF OUR MOTHER, AND HER JOB
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

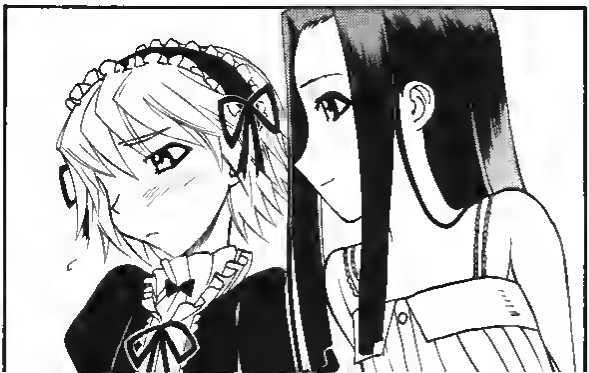

AND THAT GIRLS WHO FIND THIS OUT LATER IN THEIR LIFE, END UP WITH THEIR ENTIRE LIVES RUINED...
SHE SAID THAT THIS LINE OF WORK, ISN'T FOR EVERYONE

YEAH
I'M SURP-RISED


SHUT UP!
I'VE CHANGED SINCE I WAS LITTLE
IT'S TRUE, I WOULD NEVER HAD DREAMED THAT URSULA WOULD BE IN THIS LINE OF WORK!

I'M TRULY RELIEVED
AND NOW YOU'VE GROWN UP TO BE SUCH A HEALTHY GIRL
YOU USED TO HAVE SUCH A SMALL, FRAIL BODY....

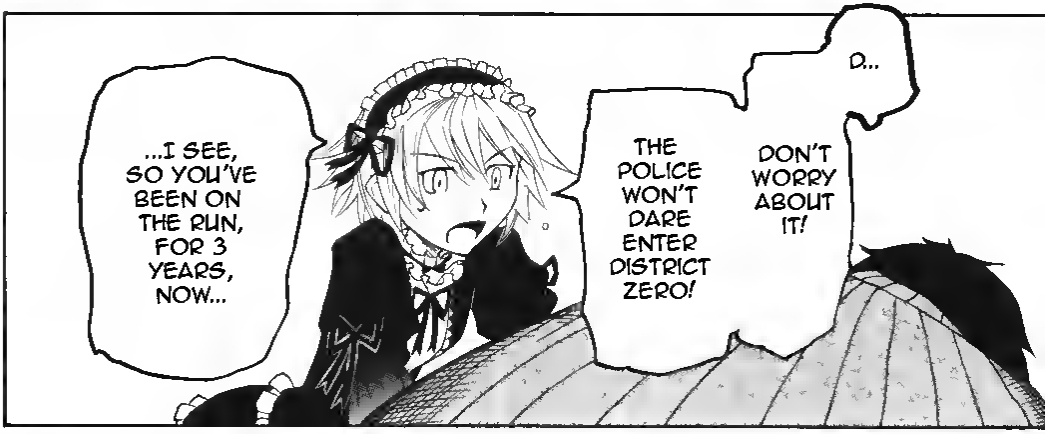

AH, RIGHT, BROTHER! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OTHERS

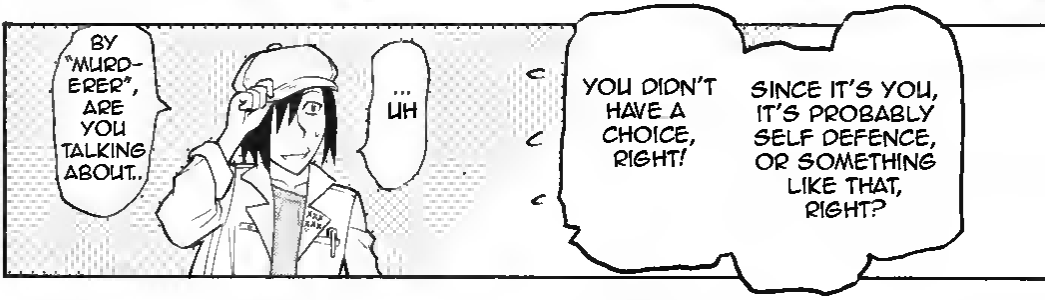


I'M RANDEL
NICE TO MEET YOU
カラ カラ
YOU SHOW UP OUT OF NO-WHERE
SO DON'T ACT LIKE A BRO-THER, TO US!
I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE ME, URSULA, OR SNIPES, RIGHT
I'M BETTER AT THE SLINGSHOT THAN YOU, NOW, BRO!
THE NEW-COMMERS ARE
MEROS AND GEM!
ALSO, IDATEN!
WE'VE BECOME QUITE SMALL, BUT...
THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE "TUMBLE WEED GROUP"!!

COME ON, URSULA, STOP ACTING SO...
WE PROMISED WE WOULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER, AS CHILDREN WHO HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!!
EVEN THOUGH WE PROMISED TO BECOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS
THIS IDIOT, SUDDENLY DISSAPEARED FROM US!!
IF HE HAD ANY INTENTION OF COMING HOME...
THEN WHY DIDN'T HE COME STRAIGHT HOME, RIGHT AFTER THE WAR ENDED!
YOUR BROTHER ....
IS A MURDERER

I CAN'T.... BE WITH YOU GUYS, ANYMORE...
I COULDN'T COME BACK HERE....


D...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
THE POLICE WON'T DARE ENTER DISTRICT ZERO!
...I SEE, SO YOU'VE BEEN ON THE RUN, FOR 3 YEARS, NOW...


SINCE IT'S YOU, IT'S PROBABLY SELF DEFENCE, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, RIGHT!
...UH
BY "MURD-ERER", ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..

HOW YOU KILLED PEOPLE....
WHILE YOU WERE IN THE ARMY?

HUH!? IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT!?
IT WAS A WAR, OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO KILL PEOPLE!!
HOW IS IT ANY DIFFE-RENT!
I STILL KILLED PEOPLE!
CHILDISH RULES LIKE THAT, DON'T APPLY!
HOW CAN THERE BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR KILLING ANOTHER HUMAN BEING!
I'M STILL...
AND THAT'S NOT IT! I'VE..... I....
.....
STOP TALKING NONSENSE!!
UGH!?

BROTHER RANDEL
MY SLING SHOT.
DON'T AIM THAT AT PEOPLE...
IT'S DANGEROUS ....
シュワワワ
THEN WHY...
DID YOU BECOME A SOLDIER, TO BEGIN WITH!?
I HAD NO CHOICE ....
THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT ME, WAS...
.... UH...
IN ANY CASE!

URSULA ....
I KNOW I MAY BE PERSISTENT, BUT
THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER!
WE SHOULD LEAVE THE QUESTIONS OF WHY WARS OCCUR, TO THE PHILOSOPHERS!
I HAVEN'T DONE THINGS THAT MIGHT CAUSE YOU WORRY
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET
SO.... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE WORKING, WHEN YOUR BODY ISN'T FULLY MATURE, YET
AND BESIDES ....
I'M FULLY AUTHORIZED BY OUR BOSS, THE GRANDMA, TO DO THIS JOB!
MY OUTFIT, TOO
THESE DAYS, PEOPLE ASK FOR ESCORTS LIKE THAT!
I'M THERE IN A PURELY PLATONIC CAPACITY
B,
BRO ....
I WOULD STILL LIKE TO... CHOOSE WHO MY FIRST, WOULD BE
EVEN THOUGH I NEED TO SURVIVE IN A CITY LIKE THIS...

AN EXPLO-SION?
AH... THAN ..

FIRST TIME ANY-THING EXPLODED, THOUGH
INCIDENTS LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN GETTING FREQUENT, THESE DAYS...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
ALL UNDER THE JURIS-DICTION OF OUR BOSS, THE GRANDMA ....
AND THE PLACES THAT ARE TARGE-TED, ARE ....
BEING TARGE-TED...?
THEY HIT OUR WORK PLACE
AH, DAMN!

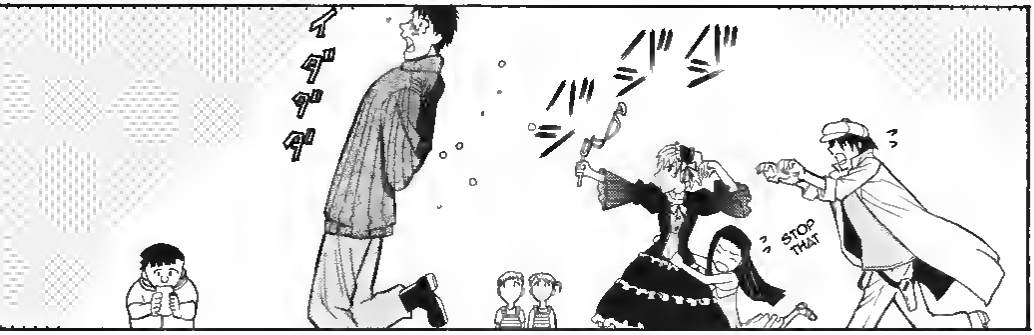
A FACTION WAR!!
担当に聞いてみたけど
やっぱりダメね
奥に入っていくのは
怖いって
そうですか

IT'S NOT A FACTION WAR, YET
SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHICH OF THE 4 FACTIONS ....
3, MINUS GRANDMA'S FACTION
...IS THE CULPRIT OF THE ATTACKS
...BUT THERE ARE RUMOURS

THE BOR-MON FAC-TION?
HUH!? HOW DID YOU KNOW!?
WHEN THE BORMON FACTION, FIRST CAME TO THIS CITY, THEY SET FIRE TO STORES...
...THAT BELONGED TO THE OTHER FACTIONS, IN ORDER TO INCR-EASE THEIR INFLUENCE
MY MOTHER...
...GOT INVOLVED IN ONE OF THOSE, AND DIED....

BUT, I'M GLAD
EVEN THOUGH I WAS GONNA JUST WATCH YOU GUYS FROM AFAR...
I WAS WORRIED THAT A FACTION WAR MIGHT HAVE SPRUNG UP, AND CAME BACK TO CHECK ON YOU
WHEN YOU WERE IN DANGER
I WAS GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE NEAR YOU
I WAS AFRAID...
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE CHANGED INTO SOME-ONE ELSE
UR-SULA?

I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY
...SORRY
YOU SEEMED TO DISAPPROVE OF OUR WORK, SO....
YEAH... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
YOU WERE HIDING THEM WITH MAKE-UP?
SO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR FRECK-LES, I SEE
.....!
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU HAVEN'T
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, EITHER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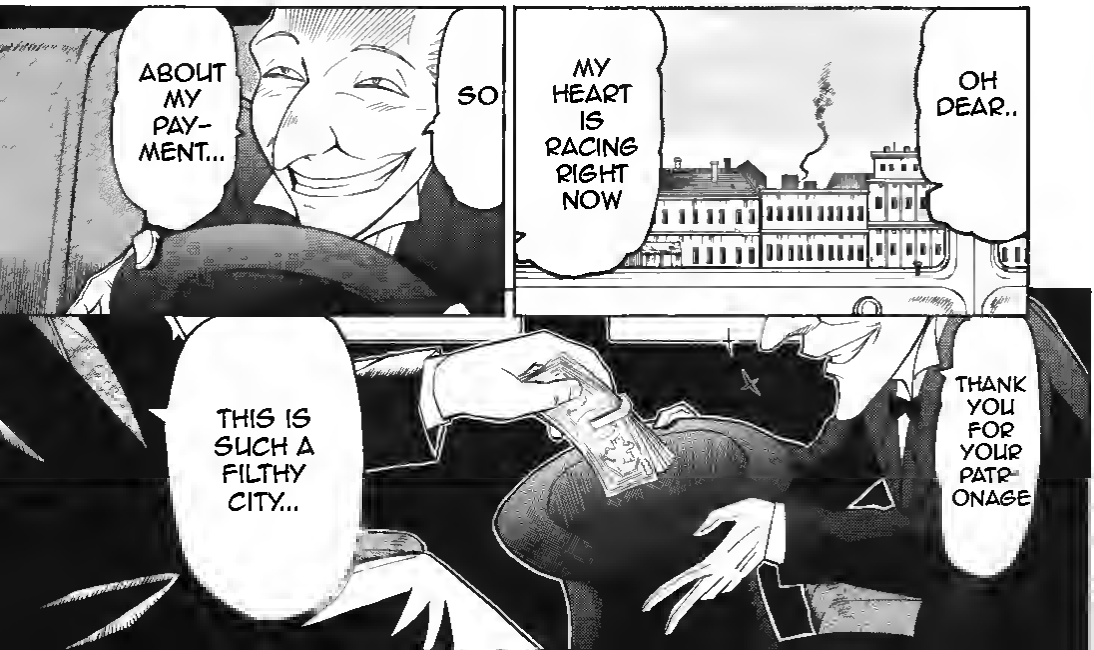
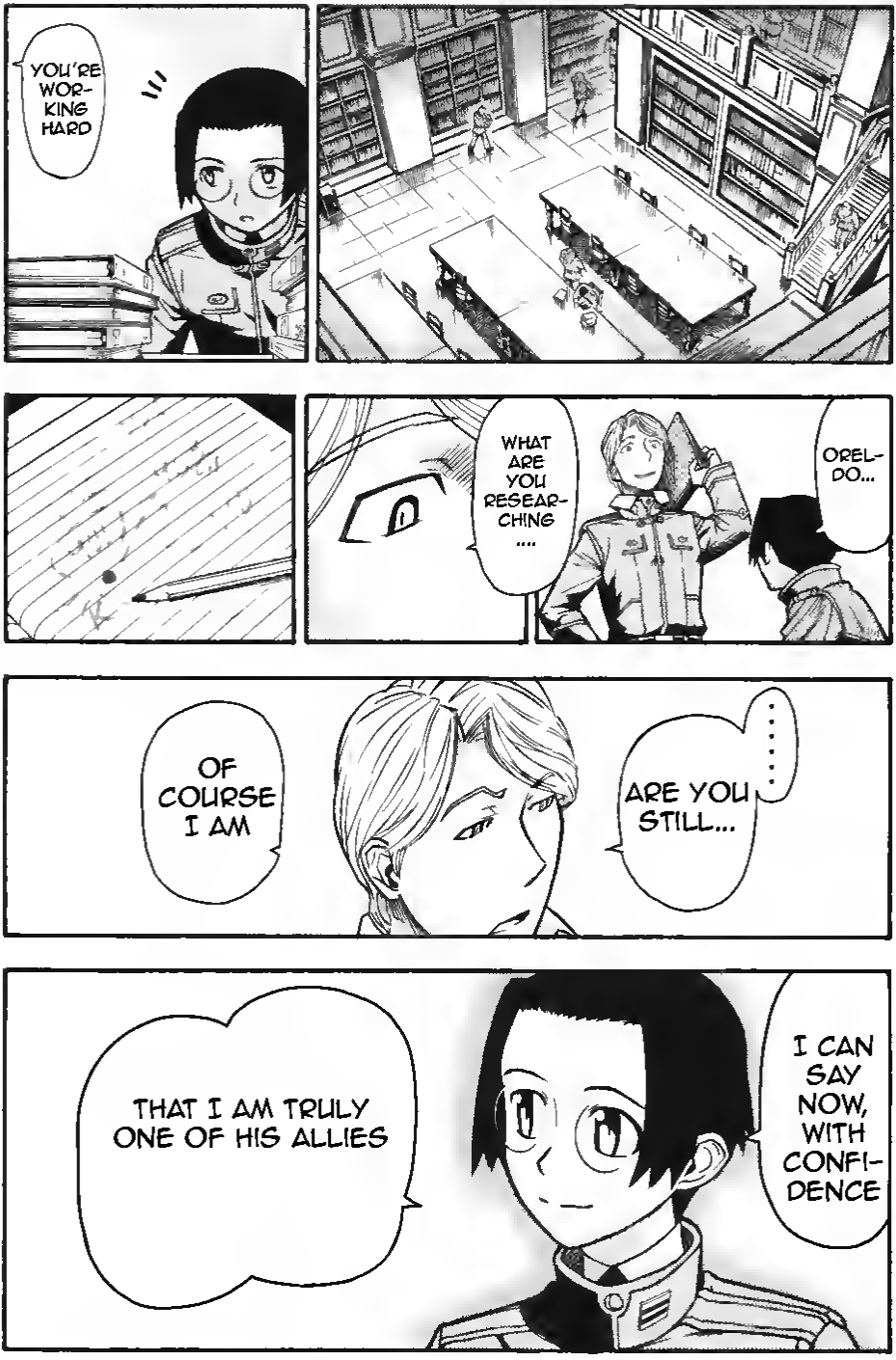
STOP THAT!

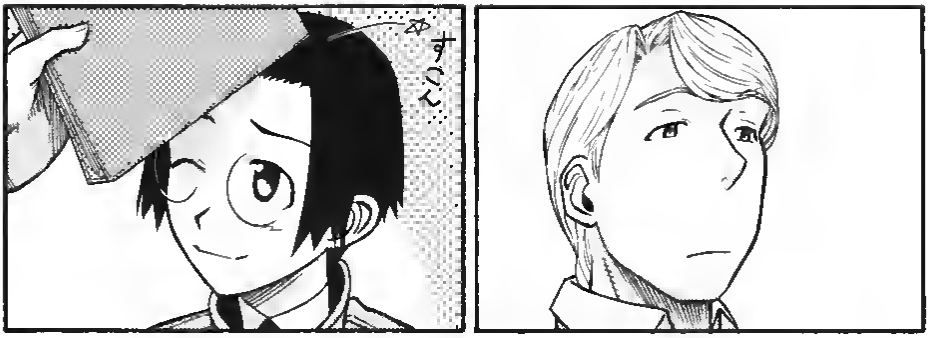

OH DEAR..
MY HEART IS RACING RIGHT NOW
SO
ABOUT MY PAY-MENT...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATR-ONAGE
THIS IS SUCH A FILTHY CITY...

IT TRULY IS A SYMBOL...
OF THE WEAK STATE OF THE EMPIRE

GRANDMA'S STORE, WAS HIT AGAIN
GUESS A FACTION WAR IS GONNA BEGIN
I'M LOST....
#36／END

PumpkinScissors


YOU'RE WORKING HARD
WHAT ARE YOU RESEARCHING....
OREL-DO...
OF COURSE I AM
ARE YOU STILL.....
THAT I AM TRULY ONE OF HIS ALLIES
I CAN SAY NOW, WITH CONFIDENCE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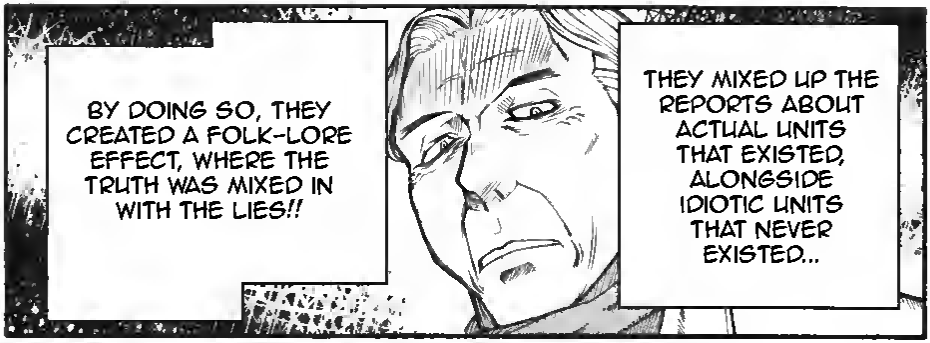
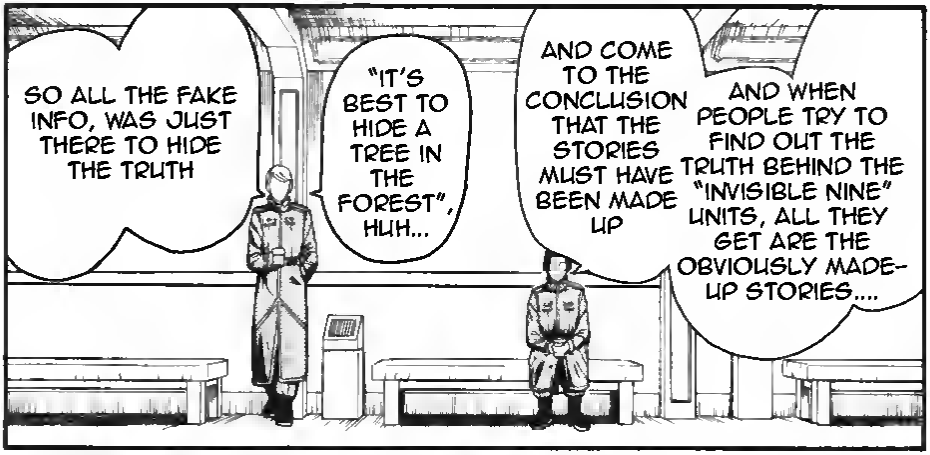
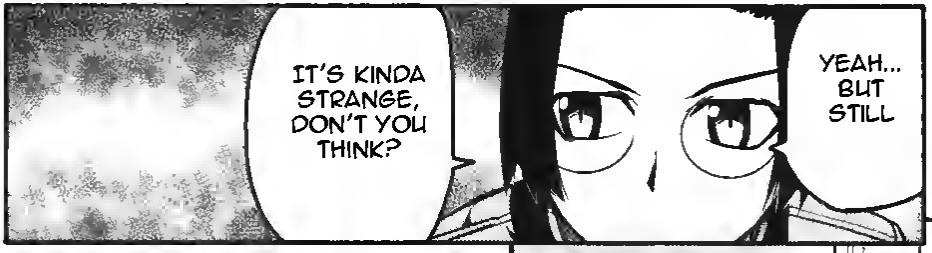
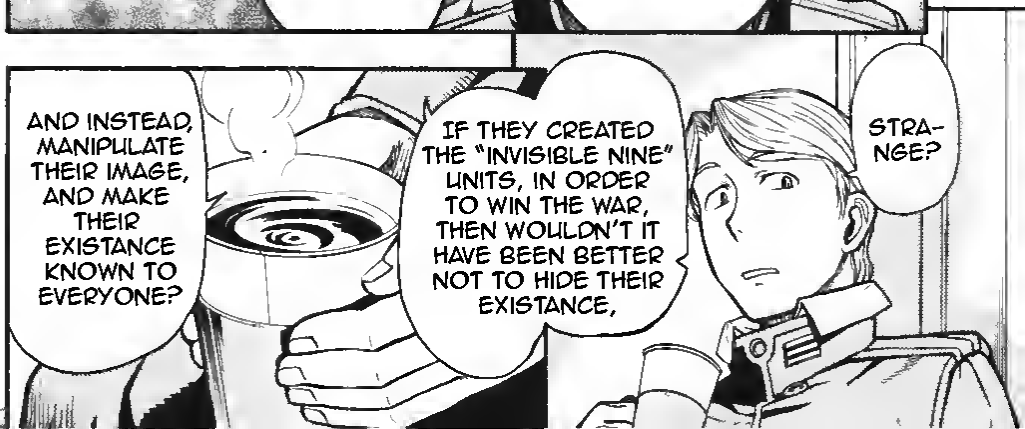
THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT...
LT. WITTER, TOLD US ABOUT SECTION 2'S SECRET, REMEMBER?
I FINALLY SOLVED THE MYSTERY REGARDING THAT CONTRADICTION
YEAH ....
INFORMATION ABOUT IT WAS EVERYWHERE, EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NO RECORDS OF THE UNIT, IN THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS
THIS IS ALL THE RESULT OF THE WORKS DONE BY INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES, INCLUDING LIEUTENANT BRANDON

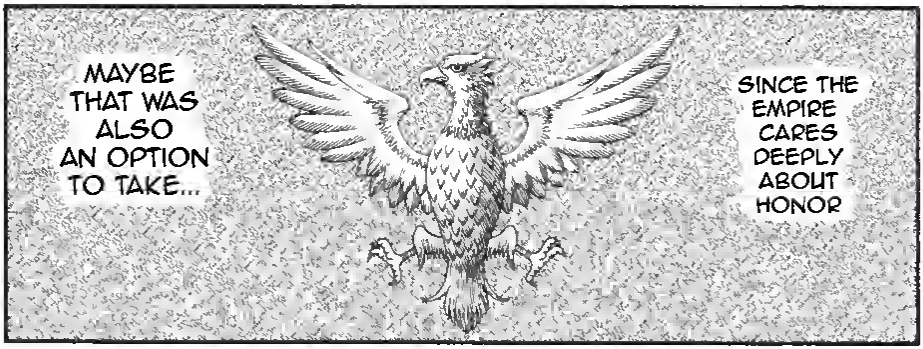

BY DOING SO, THEY CREATED A FOLK-LORE EFFECT, WHERE THE TRUTH WAS MIXED IN WITH THE LIES!!
THEY MIXED UP THE REPORTS ABOUT ACTUAL UNITS THAT EXISTED, ALONGSIDE IDIOTIC UNITS THAT NEVER EXISTED...


SO ALL THE FAKE INFO, WAS JUST THERE TO HIDE THE TRUTH
"IT'S BEST TO HIDE A TREE IN THE FOREST", HUH...
AND COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE STORIES MUST HAVE BEEN MADE UP
AND WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND THE "INVISIBLE NINE" UNITS, ALL THEY GET ARE THE OBVIOUSLY MADE-UP STORIES....

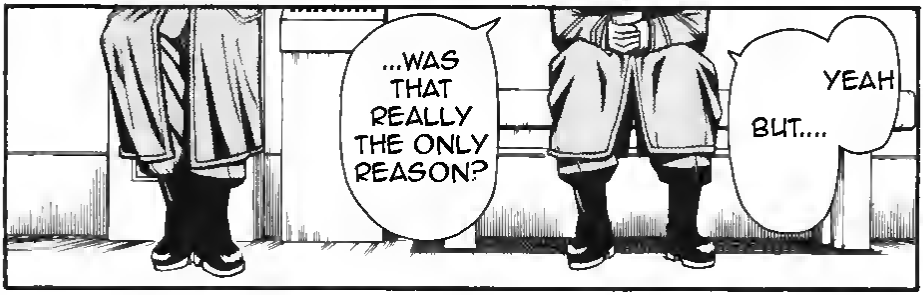

IT'S KINDA STRANGE, DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH... BUT STILL

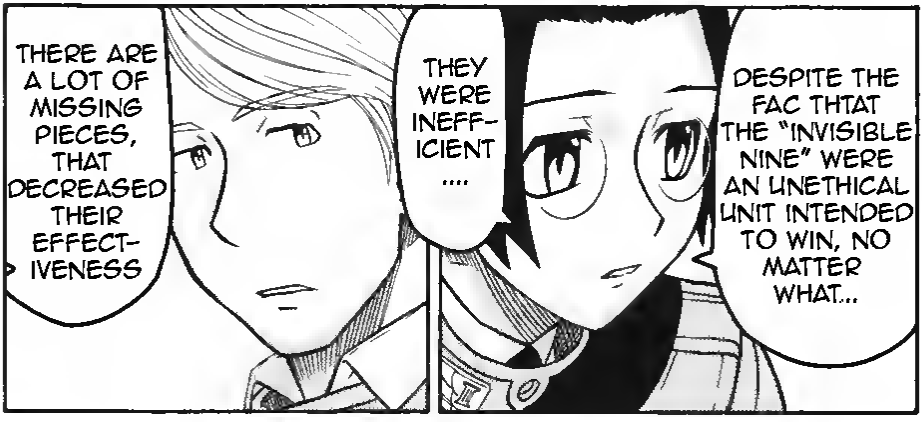

AND INSTEAD, MANIPULATE THEIR IMAGE, AND MAKE THEIR EXISTANCE KNOWN TO EVERYONE?
IF THEY CREATED THE "INVISIBLE NINE" UNITS, IN ORDER TO WIN THE WAR, THEN WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER NOT TO HIDE THEIR EXISTANCE,
STRA-NGE?

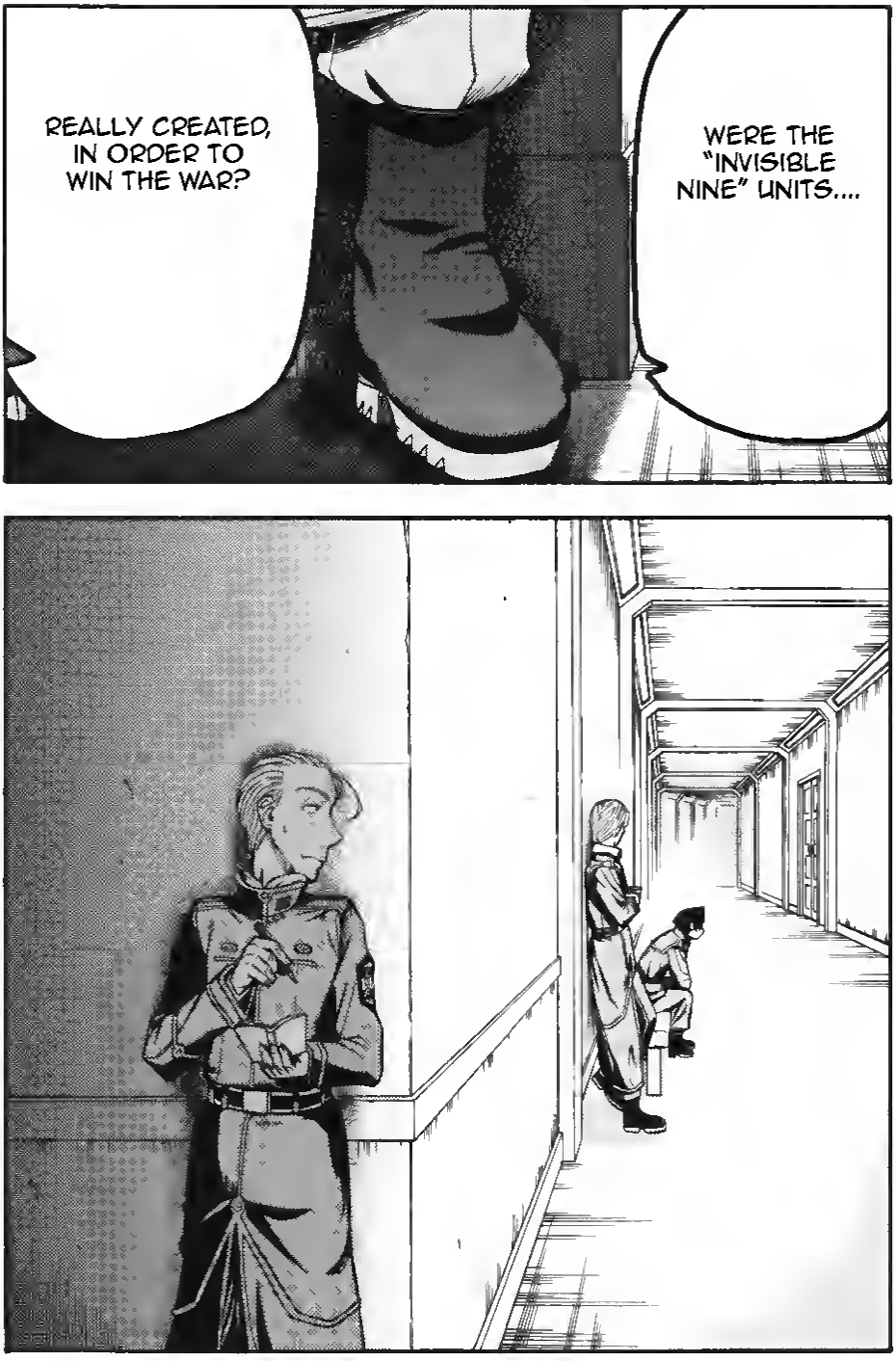
...PROPPED UP AS "HEROES" OF THE EMPIRE
IF I WERE IN CHARGE, I WOULD'VE MADE THE "INVISIBLE NINE" UNITS...
MANI-PULATE THEIR IMAGE ....
I WOULD REBRAND THEM AS "BRAVE SOLDIERS WHO THROW THEIR LIVES AWAY IN ORDER TO FIGHT THEIR ENEMIES"
FOR EXAMPLE THE "901 ANTI-TANK TROO-PER'S"
I'D MAKE IT SO THAT IT WOULD BOOST MORALE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD ....
IN WAR, PEOPLE LIKE THAT, ARE...
HEROES
THEY WERE SOLDIERS WHO RISKED BEING OSTRACIZED FOR BEING UNETHICAL, IN ORDER TO WIN THE WAR...
THE SAME GOES FOR THE OTHER UNITS....


MAYBE THAT WAS ALSO AN OPTION TO TAKE...
SINCE THE EMPIRE CARES DEEPLY ABOUT HONOR

AND THE EMPIRE ARE THE "KNIGHTS" OF THE NEVI-EURO, AFTER ALL
WELL... THERE'S THE NEVI-EURO TREATY


...WAS THAT REALLY THE ONLY REASON?
YEAH BUT....


THERE ARE A LOT OF MISSING PIECES, THAT DECREASED THEIR EFFECT-IVENESS
THEY WERE INEFF-ICIENT ....
DESPITE THE FAC THTAT THE "INVISIBLE NINE" WERE AN UNETHICAL UNIT INTENDED TO WIN, NO MATTER WHAT...


REALLY CREATED, IN ORDER TO WIN THE WAR?
WERE THE "INVISIBLE NINE" UNITS....

AIZEN-SENSEI HERE

ANOTHER CHAPTER
OF PUMPKIN
SCISSORS,
ENJOY :)

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